

AI 5. (Amended) A method for treating a cartilage or bone pathology selected from the group consisting of a bone fracture, a congenital condition due to poor or retarded growth or ossification, spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia congenita, skeletal dysplasia, multiple epiphyseal dysplasia, the method comprising administering to a patient having such pathology a therapeutically effective amount of a retinoid receptor agonist.

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Kindly add the following new claims:

AN 12. (New) A method for stimulating the healing of a bone fracture in a patient that is in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient an effective amount of an retinoid receptor agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein said retinoid receptor agonist is an RAR receptor agonist.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein said retinoid receptor is a RAR $\alpha$  $\beta$  receptor agonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

REMARKS

The Examiner's February 14, 2001 Office Action has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-4 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice to its later presentation in a continuation or divisional application. Claim 5 has been amended to specify the type of cartilage or bone pathologies which can be treated in a manner consistent with the methods of the invention. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, e.g., at page 21.

New claims 12-14 have been added. Support for these claims can be found at pages 35 and 36.